

story is one among three others, but I know I speak for all of my colleagues, especially those of us who have ever worn a uniform in defense of this great country, when I say that Glen Doherty is a patriotic warrior whose service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS HELMUT  
GRIFFIN

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Helmut Griffin, who has shown exemplary commitment to both his country and his community.

Tom was adopted by an American Army Sergeant and brought to America in 1952. He worked nights at the US Post Office Rincon Annex during his senior year of high school in order to help support his family. After his high school graduation, Tom was appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point. He graduated from West Point in 1963 and became an Infantry Officer.

Tom's Army career shows assignments as a Platoon Leader, Company Commander, and Operations Officer at the Battalion, Brigade and Joint Staff levels. He has also served as Executive Officer of a Company, Battalion, and Infantry Brigade, as Interim/Acting Battalion and Brigade Commander, and as Senior Advisor at Infantry, Battalion, and Regiment levels to Vietnamese Combat units.

Tom served three tours of duty in Vietnam as Infantry Airborne Ranger involved in direct combat. He was wounded by enemy fire during his first tour, yet continued fighting in hand-to-hand combat with enemy soldiers. During his second tour in Vietnam, he was a senior advisor to a Vietnamese Infantry Battalion. On his final tour of duty, he was an advisor to the 23rd Vietnamese Infantry Division Intelligence Staff in Kontum. He finished his service in the war as a Senior Advisor to a Vietnamese Infantry Regiment. Tom was the last American actually in contact and combat with the enemy in 1973.

For his exceptional service, Tom has been awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action, two Bronze Stars-one for heroism in ground combat—a Purple Heart, two Air Medals, four Army Commendation Medals, two Meritorious Service Medals, a Joint Services Commendation Medal, a Defense Meritorious Service Medal, numerous campaign medals, foreign awards, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Tom finished his 20 years of service in the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel of Infantry. His last two assignments were as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon, and at Fort Ord as a Brigade Executive Officer in the 7th Infantry Division.

But Tom's dedication to serving the people of his county and his community extends beyond his military career. Tom has earned his Master's Degree, a Specialists Degree, and a Doctorate. Licensed as a professional counselor, Tom uses his skills to help veterans and underserved or low-income families in Monterey County.

Tom spent seven years researching and studying Army families, with specific focus on the impact that military life has on children. He

served the county's housing authority, with responsibility for the psycho-social services of 3,000 underserved, low-income families, many of them veteran families in need of assistance. He also built and started the HUD-mandated Family Self Sufficiency Program, which was selected by the National Housing Authority Association as one of the top three programs in the United States.

Tom has also served as a social worker for Child Protective Services in Monterey and Santa Clara Counties. He acted as a liaison between the counties and the service families for the Army, National Guard, and all active components.

In 1998, Tom became a member of Monterey County's Vietnam Veterans and the founding President of the Veteran's Transition Center. This program now owns 40 homes on the former Fort Ord and is housing 55 homeless veterans and families in a two-year program that leads from being homeless and jobless to self-sufficiency.

In June 2012, Tom put together a Stand Down for homeless veterans, where 297 homeless veterans including 10 homeless families were served.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to honor this man, Thomas Helmut Griffin, for his outstanding dedication, commitment, and service.

HONORING NICK KAVADAS AND  
OTHER MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN  
HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL  
PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Nick Kavadas, who has been recognized by the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA, as Chapter, District, and National Ahepan of the Year. AHEPA honored Nick at a celebratory reception that took place on Saturday, November 10, 2012, at Dynasty Banquets in Hammond, Indiana. Also honored at the event were Pete Kavadas, for his heroic efforts at a recent AHEPA conference, and Joseph Skora, who received the Prometheus Award in recognition of his many years of service to AHEPA.

The Order of AHEPA was founded on July 26, 1922, in Atlanta, Georgia, joining the NAACP and B'nai B'rith in the effort to end racism, bigotry, and discrimination against all immigrants. AHEPA was founded on the principles of ancient Greece, to promote civic responsibility, education, philanthropy, family, and individual excellence through volunteerism and community service.

On November 10, AHEPA honored Nick Kavadas, AHEPA Supreme Governor of Region 6 representing districts 12, 13, and 14 of the Supreme Lodge, who has been an outstanding leader, and who has worked tirelessly to develop AHEPA in presence and membership throughout the state of Indiana. Under Supreme Governor Kavada's direction, AHEPA membership has grown to its highest level this year with over 450 members in the state of Indiana. Brother Nick has spear-

headed many of AHEPA's charitable endeavors supporting worthy causes including the Saint Baldrick's Foundation, which does exceptional work for children's cancer research, the National Hellenic Foundation, the National Hellenic Museum, Greek relief efforts, and the District #12 Scholarship Foundation, among many other charitable endeavors. Over the years, Nick has held numerous positions including serving on the Gary/Merrillville Chapter #78 Board of Governors, as Lieutenant Governor and Governor of Hoosier District #12, and as Chairman of the Standing Governor's Committee. Nick Kavadas has been able to touch the lives of countless individuals through his work with AHEPA, and for his passionate, selfless life of public service, he is worthy of the highest praise. I am pleased that AHEPA has recognized these admirable contributions with such a prestigious award.

Nick's brother, Pete Kavadas, was also honored at this event for his heroic efforts in a critical situation. While attending an AHEPA conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, Pete came across a young man who was contemplating suicide by jumping off of the Hoover Dam Bypass Bridge. Pete, along with the help of his brother, persuaded the young man to cease his efforts and obtain the help he needed. For his courageous efforts, Pete is an inspiration, and we are grateful for his incredible bravery in this dire situation.

Joseph Skora was honored at the event with the Prometheus Award in recognition of his many years of service to the organization. Joseph has been one of the most involved members in the Gary/Merrillville Chapter #78 as well as Hoosier District #12. Brother Joe has worked extensively with AHEPA housing and serves as a board member for AHEPA Chapter #78's Housing Board. Brother Joe also served as the Assistant Project Manager for part of the construction of the six apartment phases in Merrillville, Indiana, which provide housing for senior citizens. He has also been the manager of repairs and improvement projects for the AHEPA apartments. For his many years of service and noteworthy dedication to AHEPA, Joseph is to be commended.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating AHEPA, Brother Nick Kavadas as he is recognized as Ahepan of the Year, Brother Pete Kavadas for his heroic efforts, and Brother Joseph Skora as he is honored with the Prometheus Award. For their remarkable leadership, commitment, and enthusiasm shown through their service to so many in need throughout Northwest Indiana and across the nation, they are worthy of the honors bestowed upon them, and I am proud to represent them in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO TAHARKA ROBINSON

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Taharka Robinson for his devotion to public service in his community.

Taharka Robinson was born and raised in the Bedford Stuyvesant Community of Kings County. He attended Community Head Start,